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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Foreign Agricultural Service Washington D.C.



LIVESTOCK AND MEAT
FILM 11-58
October 31, 1958

TRENDS IN WORLD MEAT CONSUMPTION

During 1957, meat consumption rose to fairly high levels in most countries of Europe, the U.S.S.R., Australia, New Zealand, and Argentina. Consumption per person was maintained or increased in most countries. Per capita consumption in the United Kingdom reached a new postwar high, and in Argentina it was close to the alltime record set in 1956. However, in 1957 per capita consumption decreased in the United States, the Netherlands, Yugoslavia, France, New Zealand and South Africa.

Most of the meat produced is consumed in the countries producing it. World exports during 1957 are estimated at 5.6 billion pounds (carcass weight basis), compared with a total output of 95.2 billion pounds in 43 countries. The chief movement of meat is from Australia, New Zealand, and South America to the United Kingdom and other countries in Western Europe. However, North America is drawing larger supplies from the surplus-producing areas. Eastern Europe's meat exports to Western Europe are increasing; there is considerable intra-European trade.

Improvement in living standards is usually accompanied by an increase in demand for meat, but world meat trade usually is not large enough to even out per capita supplies, and changes in consumption in most countries come from changes in domestic meat output.

The leading countries in per capita meat consumption during 1957 were Argentina (242 pounds), Australia (223), New Zealand (220), Uruguay (168), United States (159), Denmark (142), Canada (137), United Kingdom (134), France (122) and West Germany (107).

Consumption figures for foreign countries are given on a dressed carcass weight basis so they will be as comparable as possible with U.S. statistics. U.S. per capita data relate only to civilian consumption.

MEAT 1/: Summary of apparent consumption in specified areas, average 1951-55,
annual 1956 and 1957, with percent change

Area				Increase		
	:Average :		:		from 1951-55 average	
	:1951-55 :	1956	: 1957	:	1956	1957
North America 2/	: mil.lb.	: mil.lb.	: mil.lb.	percent		percent
	: 28,273	: 32,322	: 31,391	/14		/11
South America 3/	: 7,816	: 8,283	: 8,457	/6		/8
Western Europe 4/	: 23,810	: 27,738	: 28,181	/16		/18
U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe 5/	: 16,225	: 18,813	: 19,373	/16		/19
Australia and New Zealand	: 2,519	: 2,517	: 2,852	0		/13

1/ Carcass meat basis--includes beef, veal, mutton, lamb, goat and horse-meat; excludes edible variety meat, rabbit and poultry meat, and lard.

2/ Canada, Mexico, United States, and Cuba.

3/ Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.

4/ Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, West Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom.

5/ Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland, Roumania, Hungary, and Yugoslavia.

North America

Total meat consumption in North America during 1957 was 3 percent less than a year earlier but 11 percent greater than the 1951-55 average. The rise in consumption in recent years has been due mostly to an increase in domestic production, but there has also been a sharp rise in net imports.

Per capita supplies in the United States during 1957 were below the two preceding years but were the fourth largest in annual records dating back to 1899. Supplies during 1958 will be moderately below those last year. Per capita consumption in Canada in 1956 was the largest since 1945, and declined only slightly in 1957. Consumption per person will be about the same in 1958 as in 1957.

South America

Consumption in South America changed little from 1956 to 1957; in 1957 it was 8 percent above average, while production was 16 percent above the average and net exports were considerably above average.

Meat consumption in Brazil apparently is not keeping pace with the increase in population. Consumption in Chile and Paraguay has been relatively small in recent years. Meat production, however, is increasing in Paraguay this year.

Western Europe

Demand for meat has continued to rise in Western Europe. Consumption in 1957 was up 2 percent from 1956, and 18 percent above the 1951-55 average. Indigenous production last year was 15 percent above average, and net imports have been rising for several years. Large imports of meat will be required in 1959 to maintain per capita consumption, as meat production is expected to level off.

Meat consumption in the United Kingdom, the outstanding meat importer, continues to increase, and domestic production is providing a large part of the increase. Domestic disappearance during the first half of 1958 was 4 percent greater than a year earlier. Production during the first half of 1958 was up 9 percent but there was a decline of 13 percent in imports. Domestic production supplied 64 percent of total consumption in January-June 1958, compared with 61 percent in the corresponding period of 1957.

Eastern Europe

Meat consumption in the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe during 1957 was 3 percent greater than a year earlier and 19 percent above average. This rise in consumption, along with increased net exports to the Free World, have been made possible by substantial gains in domestic meat output.

Per capita consumption in the U.S.S.R. is estimated at 51 pounds per person in 1955 and 53 pounds in 1956. The consumption estimates take into account data on meat trade published by the Communist Government and FAS estimates of total production.

Other Areas

Meat consumption in Japan averages only about 7 pounds per person annually but is increasing steadily. Consumption in the Philippines is considerably higher, at 12 pounds per capita.

Consumption in Australia and New Zealand continues above average. Since 1951-55, the consumption increase has about matched the production increase.

MEAT: Per capita consumption, by type of meat,
in 10 selected countries, 1957

Country	class of meat				
	Total 1/	Beef and veal	Pork	Lamb and mutton	Canned meat
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Argentina	242	210	19	13	2/
Australia	223	129	16	74	4
New Zealand	220	113	31	76	2/
Uruguay	168	130	12	26	2/
United States	159	93	62	4	2/
Denmark	3/ 142	54	87	4/	2/
Canada	137	84	45	3	5
United Kingdom	134	55	42	22	15
France	3/ 122	64	48	6	2/
West Germany	3/ 107	39	66	1	2/

1/ Beef, veal, lamb, mutton, and pork (excluding lard).

2/ Included with other types.

3/ Includes horsemeat.

4/ Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ pound.

Countries	Production			Net trade			Apparent consumption			Per capita consumption		
	Average : 1956		1957	Imports		Exports	Average : 1956		1957	Average : 1956		1957
	1951-55	2/	2/	1951-55	2/	1951-55	2/	1951-55	2/	1951-55	2/	2/
	Million pounds			Million pounds			Million pounds			Pounds		
North America:												
Canada 3/ 4/	2,086		2,415	2,318	-54		-40		2,032	2,375	2,278	129
Mexico	1,139		1,228	1,446	-66		-22		1,073	1,321	38	39
United States 5/	24,356		28,056	26,930	+320		+164		24,676	28,220	27,255	151
Cuba 3/	461		480	500	+32		+39		+35	519	535	85
South America:												
Argentina 3/ 6/	4,893		6,296	6,351	-829		-1,549		-1,550	4,064	4,747	222
Brazil 3/	3,149		3,168	3,320	-9		-33		-26	3,140	3,204	56
Chile....	360		--	--	--		--		--	364	--	56
Paraguay 3/	187		--	--	-23		-14		-18	164	--	110
Uruguay....	786		617	674	-174		-216		-222	612	401	452
Europe:												
Austria....	654		719	734	+3		+6		+6	657	725	740
Belgium-Luxembourg..	800		881	861	+17		+22		+12	817	903	95
Denmark 4/	1,247		1,354	1,551	-772		-770		-911	475	584	640
Finland....	261		303	--	-2		--		259	306	--	63
France ...	4,811		5,511	5,358	-53		-51		+2	4,758	5,460	5,360
Germany, West.....	4,740		5,367	5,706	+90		+297		+195	4,830	5,664	5,901
Greece....	186		230	238	+11		+33		+30	197	263	268
Ireland 3/	404		377	423	-158		-118		-152	246	259	271
Italy....	1,725		2,072	--	+70		+71		+224	1,795	2,073	--
Netherlands.....	1,087		1,241	1,276	-235		-274		-328	852	967	948
Norway....	238		261	261	-3		-6		-2	235	255	259
Portugal.....	361		343	361	-4		-2		-2	357	341	359
Sweden....	722		715	738	+23		+15		+37	745	730	775
Switzerland....	431		474	--	+18		+30		+26	449	504	--
United Kingdom 3 1/4/	3,151		3,715	3,752	+2,687		+3,319		+3,513	5,838	7,034	7,265
Yugoslavia.....	899		1,091	992	-22		-67		-97	897	1,024	895
Africa:												
Union of So. Africa 3/	976		1,066	1,069	-11		-19		-23	965	1,047	1,046
Asia:												
Japan.....	401		612	599	+12		+5		+50	413	617	649
Philippines.....	206		214	248	+22		+46		+30	228	260	278
Oceania:												
Australia 3/ 4/ 7/	2,522		2,637	2,852	-471		-620		-551	2,051	2,017	2,301
New Zealand 3/ 4/ 8/	1,262		1,438	1,429	-794		-938		-873	468	500	551

1/ Carcass meat basis - includes beef, veal, pork, mutton, lamb, goat and horsemeat; excludes edible variety meats, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Excludes horsemeat. 4/ Per capita consumption figures take into account changes in commercial stocks. 5/ Includes horsemeat in trade and apparent consumption. Per capita consumption estimates take into account changes in commercial stocks and excludes military consumption. 6/ Per capita data of the National Meat Board. 7/ Per capita data for years ending June 30. 8/ Per capita data are for years ending September 30.

Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of U.S. Agricultural Attaches and Foreign Service Officers, results of office research and related information.
Foreign Agricultural Service, October 23, 1958.

MEAT 1/: Per capita consumption in specified countries, prewar, 1946-50, and 1951-55 averages, and annual 1948-57

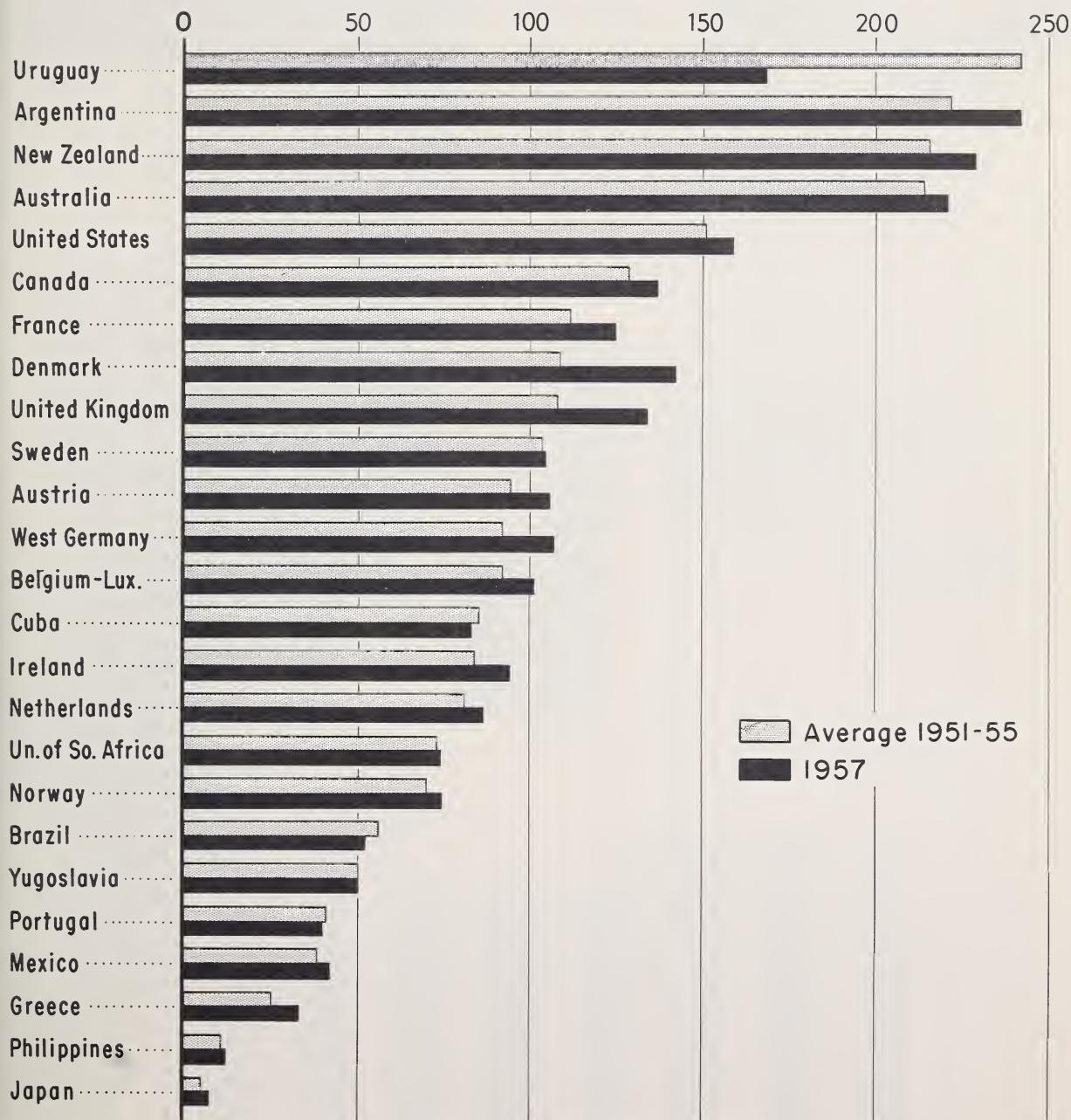
Carcass meat basis - includes beef, veal, pork, mutton, lamb, goat and horse meat; excludes edible variety meat, lard, rabbit and poultry meat.
Pork average 1 is for United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden; 1936-38 for dreeces; 1934-38 for other countries; see other footnotes for Australia and New Zealand.
3/ Prewar territory.
4/ Years ending June 30 of year shown in heading; prewar average

Years ending September 30, prewar average 1937-39.

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WORLD PER CAPITA MEAT* CONSUMPTION RISING

POUNDS



* BEEF, VEAL, PORK, LAMB, GOAT AND HORSEMEAT, CARCASS WEIGHT BASIS.
EXCLUDES OFFAL, LARD, RABBIT AND POULTRY MEAT.

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